



Folk Camps

be a part of it!

Spring 2018 “Extent” Newsletter

Welcome to the Folk Camps newsletter. This issue has news from Folk Camps and information about this year’s holidays.

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Editorial

Hello everyone! So, after a short stint of editing Extent, and then a stint of me... not editing Extent, I'm back to the grindstone once again. People also tell me I'm on Folk Camp Council too, fancy that.

It's an exciting year for Folk Camps all round. It's not only the 50th anniversary of the charity, it's also a year where we're doing our best to expand and bring in new faces to our big folky family. As a folk convert myself, it's always so much fun to share this wonderful community with friends and family... as soon as I work out how to actually describe it, it being so unique in concept. At the end of the day though, seeing is believing, and giving them a simple taste is sometimes all you need to do.

This issue is packed full of news for the upcoming summer programme. Folk Camps Party Band are already gearing up with rehearsals and some upcoming gigs, the Marquee camps are returning to the Gower, and we even have a few stories and messages from our dancers, singers and inbetweeners camps. As someone who's trying out a weekend camp for the first time this year, maybe you should give a new one a go if you think it takes your fancy!

To round it out, I rifled through the camper comments, and we even have a lovely poem from Marcus, our new chairman.

See you in the summer!

Anthony Keen

Message from the Chair

As I find my feet as your new Chair, I am gradually getting to know more and more of you. It is becoming clear to me just how much Folk Camps depends on all its members and contractors to make a success of our camps. Creativity, initiative and drive are everywhere - my duty is simply to channel this into guaranteeing the long-term future for Folk Camps. I look forward to seeing my children's children enjoying its fruits.

As our great summer program approaches our newly formed Folk Camps Party Band will have its first outing at the Chippenham Folk Festival in May. This is our most significant investment in the long-term future for a while - it represents a more outward looking organisation that wears its uniqueness with pride. It will put Folk Camps firmly on the folk world map and hopefully attract many like-minded and talented new campers.

Unfortunately, we have just had to cancel our 50th birthday party at Buxton on 23rd June. The main venue is undergoing major refurbishment and can no longer be guaranteed to be ready for our use. I was looking forward to meeting up with everyone to celebrate our birthday at what was shaping up to be a whole week's Folk Camps activities packed into one exciting day. Thanks to everyone who planned to come and especially those who offered to help out on the day. Tickets are no longer on sale and everyone who has already bought one has now received a full refund. Also, if you are unable to recover the cost of booking your accommodation we will look at your request for a refund - please send details to Sarah at our office with supporting evidence.

Although we won't be rescheduling this event, we do plan to have a big Folk Camps Birthday Party (including a good number of the activities that were scheduled for Buxton) during the August bank holiday weekend at Fowlmere. Come and join us for one combined camp to celebrate our 50th year in style, as we all get together in Cambridgeshire for a long weekend of music, dance and song. No excuses to miss this one-off chance to see all of the Folk Camps family in one place at one time!

This year I am departing from my usual pattern of one-week camp per year and expect to be attending at least four camps as well as dropping in on a few others. So hopefully I'll be seeing a good many of you through the year - I'd love to hear about how you experience Folk Camps and see its future. I'd like to thank all our volunteer staff and contractors in advance for what will assuredly be a great time.

Marcus de Frettes Chair of Folk Camps



Office Matters

The 2018 season bookings opened at the 2017 Reunion, when Marcus de Frettes took over the Chairmanship from Liz Cooper. Once again, we have a strong programme this year, a return to the lovely site at Chiddingly for a week of hall camp, marquee camp in beautiful Gower, and the return of several old favourites. Sadly, we have had to cancel one week of hall camp, but there is one week available to spend in this delightful spot in East Sussex.

Craft Break 2018 was another success, the quirky charm of the Paddocks Hotel hard by the River Wye delivered its usual wide range of February workshops, music and dance. Bookings are open for 2019 season if you fancy a Folky February break.

Once again, we open the camping weekend season at Loxwood in Sussex with May Bank Holiday weekend, followed by Spring Bank Holiday weekends at last year's successful August Bank Holiday site of Meonstoke in Hampshire and our old favourite Dalton in Yorkshire. Dancers returns to Blockley for the last time, and Musicians are back at Beckford in the Cotswolds, and then there is the return of the chance to spend up to 10 days at Miserden with Session music weekend, a light touch self-cater week and then Singers weekend.

The summer marquee week camps have been very popular this year, just week 1 has spaces available, but there are still spots at the hall week so please book your summer folk camp soon whilst you still can!

As before, a gentle reminder, try to get your balance payments completed in plenty of time, balances not paid by the deadline of two months before the start date of the camp mean that places are not secure, and can be offered to those on the waiting list. Payment threshold dates appear on your invoice, and I will reissue invoices on request if you have mislaid yours. Paying via your online banking is easy, especially if you have already paid your deposit by BACS. The details will already be set up with your surname and initial as reference, you just need to choose Folk Camps as the recipient. Don't forget to email the office with confirmation of your payment.

Looking forward to a lovely summer of folk camping admin...

Sarah Richardson
Administration Manager

Important Information about the Buxton 50th Birthday Party

Dear campers,

Due to circumstances beyond Folk Camp's control related to the availability of the venue, I regretfully have to inform you that the 50th Birthday Celebration in Buxton has had to be cancelled. This is not a decision we have taken lightly, as we recognise the effort that everyone has put into preparing for Buxton. Please be assured that there was really no other option.

All tickets already purchased will be fully refunded in the next few days. But we also recognise that many of you will have already booked accommodation and we would not want anyone to be out of pocket because of this. So, if you have booked accommodation for Buxton for which you are not able to obtain a full refund, Folk Camps will look favourably on a request for compensation. If this applies to you, please send the details to Sarah in our office along with supporting evidence.

All that said, we still intend to celebrate our 50th anniversary in style. We are currently looking into the possibility of integrating the Birthday Party into the August Bank Holiday weekend at Fowlmere. More on this shortly.

Kind regards,

Marcus de Frettes

Ever Thought about Staffing?

A question I often ask people at camp, as I am your friendly, neighbourhood staffing representative on council. Did you know that all of the staff on camps throughout the season are volunteers; that those many talented and effective individuals are merely gifted amateurs; that the people you fire questions at before they get to the toilet in the morning, just as they are about to savour the first mouthful of their well-earned meal in the evening and after they may (or may not) have had their second pint of the night are there just for the pleasure of it?

They need your love and attention, nay crave it, but also your support too. If you ever had the nagging suspicion that you know how to turn a valve on and off, can remember how to play more than one instrument and talk at nearly the same time, can organise your way out of a paper bag and onto a plate, or whatever it is that leaders are good at (please write into the return address!) let me know.

Here are the ways you can find out more...

- Check out the [staffing page](#) on the website under Community/Running Folk Camps/Staff.
- Send in a message to info@folkcamp.co.uk
- Type in your query on Facebook at [folkcampsholidays](#)
- Ring up the office on 0208 12321 36 and ask!

Even better, next time you are on camp have a chat with a member of staff to find out more about what they get out of it. If you are interested, there are all sorts of good reasons for giving it a go, some of which you can find on our staff profiles under [Camps/Programme/This season's staff](#).

Don't forget, you get something back too! As well as the feeling of contentment at a job well done and the occasional positive comment, your holiday will be paid for and, as a full member of staff, you get an extra place for free. You can keep this credit to have a holiday to recover or you can invite someone else along to share the joy. Just think of how much time you could spend Folk Camping...

When you do build up the courage to have a go for the first time, take a look at our apprentice program on the [website](#) to find out how we can support you in taking that step. I look forward to talking to you about it and organising your staff place on camp!

Calling all staff...

In case you don't know already, I am your representative on council. If you don't agree with the way we do things, have suggestions about what to change or just want to check some obscure item of Folk Camps staffing trivia, please let me know.



Coming soon to Facebook there will be pages for leaders, musicians and wardens to share their thoughts, catch up on news and just keep in touch. Watch this space at <https://www.facebook.com/folkcampsholidays/> for more details.

Cheers,
Barry Pollard

Site Finding

Folk camps are always looking for new sites, for village halls suitable for both weekend and week camps, and for possible marquee week sites. We don't use commercial camp sites, even small scale occasional ones. We prefer sites to be rural, village halls need to be on the edge of villages with an adjoining field suitable for camping - can be a pasture or a sports field. Busy roads, overhead power lines, a tendency to bog conditions are all disadvantages. Friendly locals and landowners, good road access for larger vehicles / caravans, and delivery of kit (especially important for marquee camps since there is more kit to deliver) and flattish well-drained field are all advantages. Beautiful views and good mobile communications are all bonuses but can be got around provided there are nearby attractions (seaside, town and country places of interest, walking country etc). More criteria [here](#).

We rely on our members to find us new sites to check out. If you are out and about in your area, or travelling across the country, please bear in mind the Folk Camps criteria, and keep an eye out for possible village hall and marquee locations. If you find a suitable looking site, you need to contact the person responsible (landowner/booker) and establish that it's a possibility that we can use the site. More details on what to do [here](#). If you recommend one and we find it is suitable and can negotiate a reasonable price, we will pay the finder a bonus in the season we use the site.

So please, this year, help Folk Camps to find new beautiful possibilities for locations of the future. Happy Camping!

Steve Porritt
Sites Manager



Bank Holiday Camps

Self-cater weekends for all of music, song and dance. Typically start Friday evening, finishing Monday afternoon.

May Bank Holiday - Loxwood

Spend the Early May Bank Holiday in relaxation and peace at our Loxwood site in Sussex. With a sleepy town not too far out of reach of Guildford, Loxwood has a lovely number of friendly pubs and rolling hills to satisfy any camper looking to get some folk in before the Summer programme. Haslemere is also a lovely town not too far away that has a wonderful array of parks, gardens and historic houses you can tour around.

Spring Bank Holiday South Meonstoke

Just north of Portsmouth and east of Southampton, our Spring Bank Holiday site is nestled in the beautiful South Downs National Park. Only half an hour's drive away from the coast, and the towns of Winchester, Petersfield and Fareham only 10 miles away, you'll be spoiled for choice when it comes to sights and activities. If you'd rather have some peace in the holidays, Meonstoke is the perfect place to relax and absorb the atmosphere.

Spring Bank Holiday North Dalton

Not far from Richmond, Hull and York, in lovely walking country as well as having an Abbey & Castle, Dalton is the perfect place to spend the Spring Bank Holiday in the North of England. Spend the day exploring the moors and valleys of Yorkshire, or relaxing in the campsite, which even has a wonderful stream running through it to improve the mood!

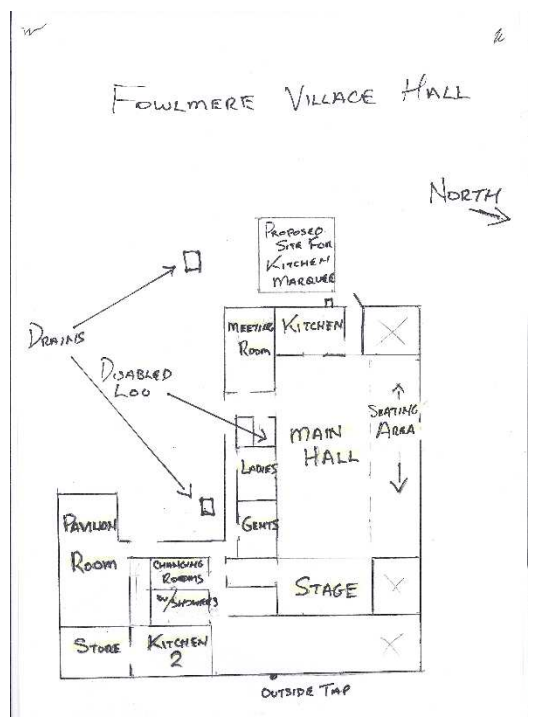
August Bank Holiday Fowlmere

In our celebration year we have decided to run a bigger joint North-South August Bank Holiday weekend, to give the chance for Folk Campers old and new to get together and celebrate the joy that is Folk Camps.

Fowlmere in Cambridgeshire is not just handy for some fabulous local attractions - the Colleges of Cambridge, the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, the RSPB wetland reserve, and the National Trust's Wimpole Hall (with a children's farm) to name a few - but is also a much bigger hall than we usually use, with generous camping space all around, and on the edge of a village with a family of enthusiastic Folk Campers as part of that community.

We'd like to round off the 2018 season with a fabulous camp which showcases all that Folk Camps is so good at, community spirit, music, song and dance, with our far-flung members gathering in companionship to toast the Society, its history and its future.

Sarah Richardson



Blockley Dancer's Weekend

A recent report has shown that the most effective form of activity for both physical and mental well-being is dance. The combination of physical exercise and mental concentration stimulates the production of cortisol and endorphins in just the right amount to be of benefit with no adverse effects. Dance is a human activity found all over the world in both sexes and all ages and every country has its own version of folk dance. My first encounter with it was as Morris Dancing which led me into Country Dancing. That was over forty years ago and I'm still enthusiastic.

One of the great aspects is that our Folk Camps version of social dance can be done to the intensity and level of those taking part whether young or old. An event like the Dancers Weekend is suitable for those who regularly attend a Folk Dance Club or go to the odd ceilidh. The principals are exactly the same for all the dances.

Particularly popular at present around the country are Contra Dances. These are the American style longways sets dancing in groups of two couples. They appeal to all ages and abilities and with the right music to carry the dance along they provide a really good workout. At the Folk Camps Dancers Weekend these are balanced by the less energetic "Playford" style dances which require more mental agility.

The Dancers Weekend this year is at Blockley Village Hall in the Cotswolds with camping on a good flat field alongside the hall. It starts on the evening of Friday 1st June and goes through the weekend until late afternoon on Sunday 3rd June. This year's dancing will be led by Brian Stanton, an accomplished caller with a huge repertoire of dances. Music will be provided by Peter and Moira Gutteridge who always have the right tunes to hand. The camp warden will be Jenny Walton.

Apart from the dancing, other highlights of the weekend are the "happy hour" get togethers before the evening meals, a bring and share supper on Saturday and a cream tea to end the event on Sunday afternoon.

The Dancers Weekend is one of the series of workshop weekends on music, song and dance held each year at beautiful locations. Those coming for the weekend can camp, caravan, motorhome or even stay off site. Visitors are welcome for anything from a single workshop to a whole day, preferably with advance notice via the Folk Camps office where Sarah will be pleased to help.

I will be there as usual this year and it would be great to see more Folk Campers attending and enjoying the stimulation of the dance. Spread the word!

Mic Spenceley

Miserden Session Music Weekend

The Folk Camp Session Workshop Weekend is designed for people who wish to learn 3 or 4 tunes over the weekend in a slow and understanding workshop situation. On the Friday night the tunes on offer will be played through by the two leaders. The learning sessions during Saturday and on Sunday morning will be taken at a pace that suits all the players with plenty of repetition and help as needed. The intention is to thoroughly learn the tunes without music. The music will be handed out at the end but will be available before if requested.

After the weekend, we hope that you will have learnt the tunes well enough to introduce them into your own local session. There will be also be plenty of opportunity to play your own favourite session tunes - either during the evenings or in the pub at lunchtimes - and to share some of your current favourites with fellow campers, as well as to perform solo tunes or songs if you wish. There will be a little dancing to join in with if you wish during the evening to complete the full Folk Camp experience.

This is a self-cater weekend that starts Friday afternoon and finishes Sunday afternoon.

Miserden Inbetweeners

Would you like to camp in the heart of Miserden village in the stunningly beautiful Gloucestershire countryside but not have to get up for a music workshop in the morning?

With no official workshops, no meal times and no problems, this camp is the ideal time for de-stressing, lazing around and not doing much. Should there be fellow musicians on site, then you could play a bit of music or sing a few songs, but only if you really want to.

There's just the wonderful Miserden countryside to ramble in and the Carpenters Arms to visit with no pressure to do anything but listen to the calls of wild birds and the chiming of the church clock. Previous activities on this camp have included music sessions in the hall and in the pub, extensive walking and cycling trips, joining Gloucester Morris Men to dance followed by a music and song session in the pub, and another evening spent listening to a folk band in the local pub.

Our warden, Steve, will be onsite to ensure that everything at the hall is working as it should, but the rest is up to you. The village shop is just a few yards from the campsite and you have all the facilities of the hall kitchen and toilets. What's not to like?

This camp is available to anyone for any amount of time, from a single night up to the whole four days. It will suit people booking either the Session Weekend before or Singers Weekend after (Or both of course!). If you're attending session camp why not stay an extra day or two. Likewise, why not arrive a few days early for Singers camp?



Singers South Miserden

Coming right off the back of the Miserden Inbetweeners, the Singers camp is a self-cater long weekend concentrating on singing together and solo. Suitable for all levels from beginners to experts. Starting Thursday evening and ending Sunday afternoon, the Singers camp is for everyone interested in vocal music and all that it encompasses. This long weekend provides an encouraging environment that brings people together to enjoy using their voices as a group or in solo performances. The generous, non-judgmental spirit at Singers camp means that everyone who wants to participate can join in, regardless of their level of confidence or experience.

Depending who comes, this could include anything from a beginners' workshop for people who've never performed in the song circle, through to a group master-class for solo singers. There will of course be some mass harmony workshops (simple and complicated) and plenty of singarounds as well. And for those that don't sing, but enjoy listening, or only joining in with a well-known chorus, there is still a place for you here.

Musician's Weekend Beckford

A self-cater weekend concentrating on playing together as a band using music sheets. Suitable for all levels from beginners to experts. Runs from Friday evening till Sunday late afternoon.

The village of Beckford sits beneath Bredon Hill, famed by Houseman's poem, which has truly wonderful views - and not a little magic. In addition to many lovely Cotswold villages, the towns of Tewkesbury, Evesham, Cheltenham and Winchcombe, with its fine abbey, are all within range. Beckford is in the picturesque fruit growing area of the Vale of Evesham and there may be a plentiful supply of soft fruits available in the area. The camp is also close to historic Tewkesbury & Stratford Upon Avon. Folk Campers will have temporary membership of the adjacent social club.

Singer's Weekend in Bampton, Cumbria

If you wish the sing-arounds at Folk Camp started early evening (but are happy to sing into the wee hours!); if you love a good song swap, and if you like the idea of being in company with like-minded folk, this Folk Camp is for you.

Gather to share and teach each other our favourite songs, sing together, sing solo and join in with some rousing choruses. All are welcome, from advanced to beginner singers and those who just enjoy a good listen. It's not just singing! At no extra charge we will find time for other workshops, including music in the morning and a bit of dancing for good measure.

It will be a relaxed weekend of singing, dancing, eating, and going to the pub. Boat trip optional.

This self-catering camp starts Thursday evening, but if you can't make it until Friday, then that's OK too. At the end we'll have a Sunday sing to wrap up before we all head off home.

Summer Camps

Marquee - The Gower

I first came to Gower as a student in 1976 and fell in love with the place, and we've been living here permanently since the late 80s. We're really looking forward to sharing this little bit of heaven with our Folk Camps friends again this summer. There's a good description of Gower on the website, for those who didn't come last time. Usefully, it includes a link to a website with Tide Tables - essential for any walks that take you onto the coast, as we have the 2nd highest tidal reach in the world.



One of the most beautiful places to visit is Rhossili - on the south western tip of Gower - with stunning views and a massive beach (down a steep path). The huge car park there is now National Trust and so free to members. The other main National Trust parking is at Pennard Cliffs on the south coast, where there's also a great clifftop walk.

If you have dogs, Swansea Council have a webpage with details of which beaches are out of bounds - mostly, they're the ones nearer to the city. Also, there is a lot of common land in Gower, which means free roaming sheep, some cattle and ponies. Watch out for them when driving on some roads and also with your dogs, especially on Rhossili walking out to the Worm, where the cliffs are high and animals go over every week. It's perfectly safe if you keep away from the edge!

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/dogsonbeaches>

Should it rain (it *never* does...), the National Waterfront Museum in Swansea is free and really good on the industrial history of Wales, with lots of working models and usually a programme of children's activities during the holidays. Check this webpage shortly before you come for details: <https://museum.wales/swansea/>

I'm sure you'll have a great time here, it's already looking wonderful!

Sally Clayden



Hall - Chiddingly



Our lovely camp site, with masses of flat space, is right next to the village hall which we'll be using for meals and activities. It's a delightful Victorian building which once served as a school.

The church is alongside with its amazing spire, the two buildings being right at the centre of the village. Just around the corner is the high-acclaimed and extremely-welcoming Six Bells pub with its quirky interior and excellent ales. A short walk to Muddles Green will take you to the Chiddingly Village Shop and cafe.

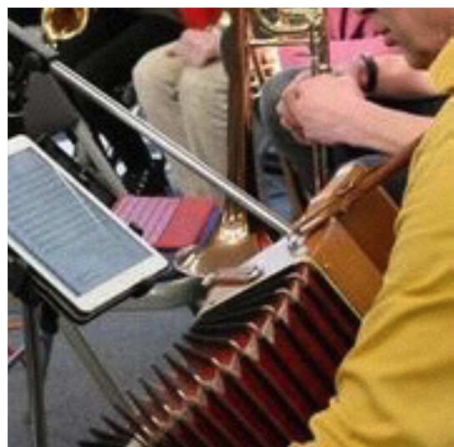
Brighton is twenty miles away, Eastbourne fifteen so there's lots of coast to explore. Major landmarks include Beachy Head, the Seven Sisters and Cuckmere Haven as well as the Long Man of Wilmington. There's loads of local history to discover, not least the story about the onion pie.

Sue Malleson



Party Band Update

First Rehearsal Weekend - March 2018



The “Sawpits” Centre Towcester Saturday 10- 7 Sunday 10 -5 (Phew!) Dressing up & photo shoot with Burst eardrum Sunday lunchtime. Makeup and all other photos by Claire Gurney. Washing up and good vibes by Kirsten. Huge thanks to Folk Campers who offered accommodation - in particular Harriet Abbott and Lou Tribus.

After months of preparation we finally came together to prepare 12 sets of Dance tunes for our first gig - ‘in at the deep end’ at Chippenham Festival with Gordon Potts Calling.

With limited time and with such a large band it was important to make the rehearsal as time efficient as possible. All tunes were recorded and transcribed with brass parts and harmony parts in advance. This was all shared on dropbox so that band members could practice and prepare - the idea being that the rehearsal was about playing music together rather than note learning! After a hard day of rehearsing we all ate together on Saturday night before going off to our various hosts - the food I am told was fantastic! Sunday morning started with a 13k run (Honestly!) although a few of us were a little weary to go the whole distance! By 6pm on Sunday most of us were heading home - exhausted but happy- our heads buzzing with tunes and arrangements... thank goodness for Dropbox... it will all be on there as a reminder...



The First rehearsal was a resounding success! We are all looking forward to the next time and to Chippenham, where we will get to spread the word about the wonderfulness of Folk Camps to the wider public. Hopefully, at some point soon, there will also be opportunity to show all existing Folk campers the product of our hard work!

Please like our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FolkCampsPartyBand/>

and have a look at the updated webpage: <http://www.folkcamps.co.uk/folk-camps-party-band/>

We are looking for opportunities to play at festivals so any help in this regard please let us know.



We would like to thank Council and all Folk Campers for your amazing encouragement and support!

Jenny Newman

Tent Matters

This year we decided that we wanted to return to Lundy Island as well as do the usual large number of Folk camps. Unfortunately, we left the Lundy decision too late to book a cottage so we unexpectedly found ourselves looking for a second tent. We thought it would be interesting to share the process we went through to select the new tent.

Our Main tent, a Cabanon Guadeloupe is fantastic but was too heavy for island use and well over the weight limit. Our original backup tent was a Vango 350 but this was becoming a problem as we couldn't really stand up in it. This was donated to the local scout troop who use this type extensively for D of E etc.

Now when it comes to tents we normally prefer canvas or cotton. The problem was that one of the trips booked for this year has a weight limit on items of luggage. This ruled out both our existing main tent and the prospect of a smaller canvas tent.

Thus, the quest for a new three to four-person tent began. Any tent used for this purpose had to meet the following criteria:

- You must be able to stand up in it
- Must be able to withstand high winds and rain
- Have a living space and sleeping space
- Weigh no more than 15Kg preferably less

So, we looked at the website of the camping shop we've been using since 1985 to see what was available. A bit of research yielded the following options:

- Wimslow 500 - 5-person tunnel tent made by Vango.
https://www.attwoolls.co.uk/index.php?route=product/product&product_id=4314&search=vango+wimslow+500
- Vango Skye 500 - slightly more basic tunnel tent made by Vango.
<https://www.attwoolls.co.uk/vango-pulsar-tent-p-2050?search=Vango%20Skye%20500>
- Kampa Brean 3 - A slightly smaller tent than the other two available in Airbeam and conventional poled format.
<https://www.attwoolls.co.uk/tents-brand-c-17/tents-brand-kampa-tents-c-17199/kampa-brean-tent-p-2901>

However, when we saw things for real, the Brean 3 was about the only one of the right size, just big enough. The other tents were for 5 people and would be less weather resistant. It

can get very windy on Lundy! Also, the fact it was available in Airbeam and ordinary format was a useful set of options.

If we were choosing a tent to use on the mainland the Airbeam variant would have been ideal but it proved too bulky and heavy for island use as there is a weight limit. So, in the end we chose the Kampa Brean 3. This will allow us to use it on Lundy but also for mainland use especially short weekends.

This is a picture of the beast.



Will report back after the Lundy trip with some pictures and details of how we got on!

Steve Mundy

Camper's Comments

I got to take a look through the camper's comments this year. Above all, camper feedback and comments are one of the most vital services you can give to camping staff and Folk Camp Council. After all, we want to make the very best camps possible for your enjoyment - if there's something we can fix, by all means, let us know!

As usual, looking through the comments, for the most part, the comments were all positive. This is still useful to hear, too - if we're doing something right, it makes sure that we keep doing it right.

There were a few things that are worth bringing up, however.

To start with, we've had a number of comments about how some people accidentally followed the wrong address to the campsite, ending up not in Gaunts or Miserden, but the Folk Camps Admin office - for the new year's programme, we've made sure that this won't happen again! And the address is much clearer.

We had another suggestion that perhaps could be made possible with some camper participation. With Folk Camps happening all over the country, a number of people have commented on how residents of the area are interested in the camps but have no idea what they are! One suggestion was that a banner could be made to present outside the camp, at the very least saying who we are and where you can learn more. Whilst an official banner could be made (and is something the council is looking into), a homemade banner by the campers themselves would be great too - maybe a job for our craft campers...

If there has ever been something you think can be improved at a camp, or you want to praise the hardworking staff and the people who do so much to make your week, please speak up! It does a world of difference - and shows people that their work is not going unnoticed.

Anthony Keen

A Poem from the Chairman

My Folk Camps Journey

*My wife Régine with kids in tow
Found Folk Camps so she vowed to go*

*Not my thing I did declare
But I will help you to repair*

*From Amroth on, the pattern set
A night or two of camp well met*

*But in my heart I always said
No further on will I be led*

*Until it was too far afield
To travel back and forth, I yield*

*And stay the course for seven nights
To savour all the folk delights*

*What times were had and friendships made
The memories will never fade*

*But in my heart I always said
No further on will I be led*

*Then The Gower did hit me hard
Who'd have thought I'd be dealt this card*

*Inspired by folk, fiddle in hand
I conquered fear and joined the band*

*My darker side, confess the facts
Did murder in four playful acts*

*No better week had I lived through
Than that Folk Camp, I swear it's true*

*But in my heart I always said
No further on will I be led*

*To follow that would be insane
So next I ran the murder game*

*Seeing his chance, what a great sell
Patrick asked me on to Council*

*But in my heart I always said
No further on will I be led*

*As time went on I find my feet
Loving the team each time we meet*

*Hard working Liz became the Chair
Vice Chair for me supporting her*

*But in my heart I always said
No further on will I be led*

*Oh wondrous life, oh so surreal
I've now become your Chair for real!*

*Hello to all, let me advance
I'll do you well, I'll take this chance
To give back all to our alliance*

*So in my heart it will be said
I wonder next where I'll be led*

Marcus de Frettes

Obituary - Joyce Paterson

Joyce Paterson passed away last Saturday 24th March 2018. It was very quick, 16 days from diagnosis of pancreatic cancer to passing away peacefully in a hospice in Peterborough.

There will be a private burial on 16th April followed by a public humanist memorial in the afternoon in Stamford, Lincolnshire. (The exact details to be confirmed).

It has been a very long time Roderick Paterson had any contact with the 'Folk' folk, so has asked that if people could spread the word of Joyce's passing, that would be very much appreciated. He can be contacted by email at rodp42@googlemail.com



Coming soon - a new FCS publication

A selection of folk melodies arranged by the late Geoff Ginn for recorders.

FOLK TUNES FOR RECORDERS

A collection of melodies
- morris tunes, country dances and folk songs -
arranged by Geoffrey Ginn



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